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HOMEMAKERS' CHAT

Wednesday, May 17, 1939

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "TIPS FOR MAY FOOD SHOPPERS." Information from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Consumers' Counsel, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

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The month of May opens the season for five favorite American foods -- cantaloupes, watermelons, cherries, peaches, and green corn. Sounds like summer for sure, doesn't it?

On your May market list be sure to write Texas Bermuda onions and rhubarb and strawberries, for these foods are at or close to their monthly peak for the year. Better write down lettuce and tomatoes and new potatoes also, because these are coming into market in much larger amounts this month. Other foods that are coming in in larger supplies are: fresh pork, spring lamb, better-grade beef, butter, chickens (particularly broilers), and most green vegetables. Not so many eggs, sweet potatoes, grapefruit, nor so much lower grade beef on the market as in April.

But compared with last spring the markets will have more eggs and poultry products, more dairy products than they had a year ago; more better grade beef, fresh pork, eggs, poultry, and butter. There won't be so much lamb or lower-grade beef as last spring.

Strawberries this month come mostly from North Carolina and Arkansas and Tennessee. And we'll have more of them than last year.

For spring salads Bermuda onions are always favorites. They are the big mild-flavored onions, usually either white or yellow. The most popular size is 2 and a half to 2 and three-fourths inches in diameter. When you're buying onions, notice their shape, moisture content, and general appearance. The best



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quality have dry skins, a bright general appearance, and are hard and evenly shaped. Odd-shaped onions aren't desirable because of waste in preparation.

Now about the peaches of 1939. Fresh peach supplies come mostly from the Southern States. Georgia is the leading fresh peach-producing State and supplies almost all our fresh peaches up to July. California peaches generally go for canning and drying.

As for May melons, the watermelons this month come mostly from Florida and the cantaloupes mostly from California. No official estimates are out as yet about the size of the 1939 melon crop. But you can count on seeing more and more melons until they reach their high point in July or August.

Here's more salad news. From May through July lettuce and tomatoes are most plentiful on the market. The predictions are for more lettuce than last year but fewer tomatoes. Fewer cucumbers and egg plants, too.

Texas grapefruit went off the market May 15 because of the quarantine against the fruit fly, but you can still have plenty of California and Florida grapefruit.

Though the sweet corn and snap bean crops for canning will be considerably smaller this year, you'll find about the same number of canned corn and beans on the grocery shelves. The reason is that there were large carryovers in both these canned items at the end of the present marketing season. These will offset a good part of the decrease in the 1939 pack.

More shopping tips in two weeks.

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